

REMARKS

The Examiner's action mailed on April 20, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7-9 are amended herein. As a result, claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims in the amended application.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-5 are allowed. The Applicants further acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 6 is canceled, and claim 7 is rewritten herein in independent form to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 6. Claims 8 and 9 are amended to depend from now independent claim 7.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brown (U.S. Patent No. 4,717,977). Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Brown in view of Heldt (U.S. Patent No. 3,651,829). It is respectfully submitted that the rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claim 6 and the amendment of claims 8 and 9 to depend from claim 7.

In summary, it is submitted that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116, and the passing of this case to allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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